



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER GRADUATES OVERCOME BARRIERS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

NEARLY 90 TENNESSEANS WITH DISABILITIES GAIN SKILLS TO GO TO WORK

SMYRNA, Tenn.— Dozens of young men and women with significant disabilities, including traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury and mental retardation, donned cap and gown and walked or rolled their wheelchairs across the stage at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna today. The 86 students come from all over Tennessee, representing 34 counties from Shelby to Sullivan. All of the students are determined to better their lives and enter or re-enter the workforce.

The new graduates took advantage of the diverse programs offered at TRC, including Traumatic Brain Injury Program, Physical Rehabilitation Program, Building Maintenance, Business Education Training, Food Service, Custodial Training and Warehouse Training.

The keynote speaker at today's graduation was Representative John Hood of the 48th State House District in Murfreesboro. Representative Hood is a long-time supporter of the TRC who champions causes that improve the lives of all Tennesseans. He is best known for his sponsorship of the 2004 legislation that strengthened the safety belt laws in Tennessee, which is supported by the well-known campaign "Click it or Ticket."

Several students were singled out for their determination and perseverance, including 32-year old Russell Daniels of Iron City in Lawrence County. Daniels received a severe spinal cord injury following a race car accident. He has learned new ways of doing everyday activities that most people take for granted and is pursuing a college degree. He hopes to return to the race car industry as a crew chief.

Debbie Killian, a 46-year old from Nashville, completed the Vision Impairment Services (VIS) program in just four months. After attending classes and training programs at the TRC, Killian was able to increase her math level from a third grade level to a post high school level. She hopes to soon manage a food service facility.

TRC's mission is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in a positive and productive learning environment. The services offered at TRC assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible.

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility. It is one of only eight such centers in the nation. Services are provided on campus, and the majority of clients live on site while receiving services. The length of programs offered at TRC varies, depending upon the individual client's interest, abilities and needs. TRC is part of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

TRC serves more than 1,300 Tennesseans with disabilities each year. Since opening its doors in 1977, TRC has served more than 30,000 individuals with disabilities.

For more information about TRC, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Tennessee Department of Human Services, visit www.state.tn.us/humanserv.

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700

The following is a list of TRC graduates by county and program:

First Name	Last Name	County	Program Area
Samantha	Solands	Anderson	Food Service
Michael	Filkel	Benton	JOBS
Brandi	Stanley	Carter	Business Education
John	Harmon	Cumberland	Warehouse
Daryl	Alexander	Davidson	Custodial
Brandon	Brownell	Davidson	JOBS
Andrea	Duffy	Davidson	JOBS
Daniel	Lee	Davidson	JOBS
Paul	Simkins	Davidson	JOBS
Jamont	Smith	Davidson	JOBS
Joseph	Brooks	Davidson	OT/PT
Gwendoly "Gwen"	Groves	Davidson	TBI
Ameer	Muwwakil	Davidson	TLS
Debbie	Killian	Davidson	VIS
Sade	Griffin	Davidson	JOBS
Christiana	Hoover	Davidson	Groundskeeping
Jason	Burgess	Dekalb	Building Trades
Jerremy	Stubblefield	Dickson	TLS
Vicki	Harmon	Franklin	Food Service
Nancy	Karlson	Franklin	Groundskeeping
Bonnie	Hall	Franklin	JOBS
Sheonte	Anderson	Gibson	JOBS
Benjamin "Zach"	Carmon	Grainger	JOBS
Kathryn	Dabbs	Greene	Food Service
John	Brooks	Greene	TLS
Shemeka	Rodgers	Hamilton	Custodial
Tameka	Tucker	Hamilton	Custodial
Cedric	Jones	Hardeman	Groundskeeping
Trisha	Miller	Hickman	Warehouse
Jason	Gordon	Johnson	Building Trades
Bethany	Farmer	Knox	JOBS
Selena	Tackett	Knox	Warehouse
Allison	Beckman	Lawrence	JOBS
Russell	Daniels	Lawrence	TLS
Jessica	Miller	Lawrence	VIS
David	Kerr-Thurston	Loudon	Groundskeeping
Brandy	Holmes	Madison	Business Education
Jessica	Lewis	Madison	Custodial
Latara	Brown	Madison	JOBS
Hunter	Gray	Madison	JOBS
Doyle	Schwartz	Maury	JOBS
Sarah	Bays	Maury	Warehouse
Alan	Briggs	Maury	Warehouse
James	Neil	McMinn	JOBS
Yasmine	Turner	Montgomery	Food Service
Charity	Wynn	Montgomery	Food Service

Jessica	Williams	Montgomery	JOBS
Anthony "Tony"	Spencer	Montgomery	TBI
Stantez	Bowens	Robertson	Custodial
Ashlee	Martin	Robertson	TLS
Levi	Clutts	Robertson	Warehouse
Nicholas "Nick"	Watson	Rutherford	TLS
Cathleen	Hite	Rutherford	VIS
Zachary	Alberts	Rutherford	JOBS
Erika-Lee	Caston	Shelby	Business Education
Chelsea	Cornelius	Shelby	Business Education
Danielle	Dennis	Shelby	Business Education
Renita	Dortch	Shelby	Business Education
John "Ricky"	Bankston	Shelby	JOBS
Marcus	Driver	Shelby	JOBS
Shannen	Mizell	Shelby	JOBS
Sabrina	Nyugen	Shelby	JOBS
Steve	Cunningham	Shelby	VIS
Mack	Underwood	Shelby	VIS
Courtney	Vielhaber	Shelby	Warehouse
Tiffany	Rider	Smith	Food Service
Tyler	Todd	Sullivan	JOBS
Ryan	de la Vega	Sumner	JOBS
Jesus	Santiago	Sumner	Warehouse
Marcus	Jones	Tipton	JOBS
Michael	Washburn	Tipton	JOBS
Nathan	Starkey	Warren	JOBS
Theodore "Ted"	Creek	Warren	TBI
Jeff	Umsted	Weakley	VIS
Austin	Carter	Williamson	Business Education
Holly	Redding	Williamson	Business Education
James	Green	Williamson	TLS
Caitlin	Klatt	Williamson	TLS
Nichole	Lyles	Williamson	TLS
Bonnie	Stuffer	Williamson	TLS
Michaelee	Wilson	Williamson	TLS
Ashley	Adams	Wilson	Food Service
Shawn	Culbertson	Wilson	JOBS
William	Patterson	Wilson	TBI
Richard	Bryant	Wilson	TLS
Willis	Emler	Wilson	Groundskeeping

JOBS— Job Objectives & Behavioral Services

TLS— Transitional Living Skills

OT/PT— Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy

VIS— Vision Impairment Services